Claims

[c1] That which is claimed is:

1. A distributed system for publishing and retrieving content in a network, comprising: a plurality of computer systems connected together in a peer-to-peer fashion; one or more software applications associated with the computer systems for allowing the computer systems to publish and retrieve content from the network by initiating peer-to-peer interactions across the network using a user based digital trigger acknowledgement.

[c2] 2. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the computer systems have characterized network resources that can be contributed to the network in return for viewing an advertisement.

[c3] 3. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the network resources include any of disk space, bandwidth, and CPU processing cycles.

[c4] 4. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the interactions are performed by the client-server applications.

[c5] 5. The system of claim 1, wherein each interaction across the network involves a transaction cost.

[c6] 6. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for viewing an advertisement.

[c7] 7. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for an advertisement being viewed when using the content and the user can select the advertisement from a plurality of advertisements

8. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for an advertisement being viewed while retrieving the content from the network.

[c8] 9. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the parts of the network may be connected through one or more of the following types of connections.

[c9]

10. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the system keeps track of the

content.

[c10] 11. A distributed system for publishing and retrieving content in a network, comprising: a plurality of computer systems connected together in a peer-to-peer fashion; one or more software applications associated with the computer systems for allowing the computer systems to publish and retrieve content from the network by initiating peer-to-peer interactions across the network using a user based digital trigger acknowledgement.

[c11] 12. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the computer systems have characterized network resources that can be contributed to the network in return for viewing an advertisement.

[c12] 13. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the network resources include any of disk space, bandwidth, and CPU processing cycles.

[c13] 14. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the interactions are performed by the client-server applications.

[c14] 15. The system of claim 11, wherein each interaction across the network involves a transaction cost.

[c15] 16. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for viewing an advertisement.

[c16] 17. The distributed system of claim 1, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for an advertisement being viewed when using the content and the user can select the advertisement from a plurality of advertisements

18. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the content can be retrieved in return for an advertisement being viewed while retrieving the content from the network.

[c17] 19. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the parts of the network may connected through a wireless connection.

[c18] 20. The distributed system of claim 11, wherein the system keeps track of the content.